

Message Text

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63

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 /142 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ PAB: DMCOCHRAN: BK

4/4/73: EXT:22441

APPROVED BY D: KRUSH

D/ PW: FSIEVERTS

NEA/ PAB: LBLAINGEN

NEA/ P: JEBRIGGS

NEA: RPDVAVIES

S/ S - MR. BARNES

----- 121203

R 051540 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

UNCLAS STATE 062916

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, BG

SUBJECT: CALL BY WIVES OF POWS

1. TWO OF FOUR WIVES OF PAKISTANI POWS NOW IN US CALLED ON ACTING SECRETARY APRIL 3 TO URGE USG INTERVENE WITH GOI AND BDG IN SUPPORT EFFORTS OBTAIN POW REPATRIATION. TWO CALLERS WERE MRS. PARVEEN ATIF AND MRS. AURANGZEB WHO WERE ACCOMPANIED BY PAKISTANI EMBASSY DCM RIZA. ALSO PRESENT WERE FRANK SIEVERTS, SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR POW AFFAIRS, AND COCHRAN, NEA/ PAB.

2. DURING CALL, POW WIVES STRESSED TWO CHIEF THEMES.

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FIRST, THEY NOTED THEIR CAUSE PRIMARILY HUMANITARIAN. ELABORATING ON THIS THEME, THEY NOTED THAT PRISONERS INCLUDE NOT RPT NOT ONLY MILITARY BUT ALSO MANY WOMEN AND CHILDREN. SAID THAT FAILURE REPATRIATE THIS LATTER GROUP WORKING UNUSUAL HARDSHIP ON PARTICULARLY INNOCENT GROUP. RE MILITARY, THEY NOTED THAT IN PAKISTANI SETTING, THIS RAISES SPECIAL PROBLEMS FOR MANY OF THOSE HELD ARE HEADS OF JOINT FAMILIES. AS RESULT, IN THEIR ABSENCE, WIVES MUST CARE FOR JOINT FAMILY MEMBERS INCLUDING ELDERLY DIRECT AND COLLATERAL RELATIONS AS WELL AS CHILDREN.

3. SECOND THEME DEALT WITH GENEVA CONVENTIONS. NOTING THAT ARTICLE 118 CALLS FOR REPATRIATION OF POWS " WITHOUT DELAY" AFTER CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, THEY SAID THAT FIGHTING HAS BEEN OVER FOR SIXTEEN MONTHS BUT RELEASE IS DENIED. THERE NO RPT NO GROUNDS FOR CONTINUED RETENTION POWS; RATHER, FAILURE RELEASE THEM CONTRAVENES INTERNATIONAL LAW AS SET FORTH IN THE CONVENTIONS. INDIA SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PERMITTED TO SEEK POLITICAL ENDS THROUGH UNLAWFUL ACTION. MOREOVER, WHILE INDIANS MAY BE TRYING PRESSURE PAKISTAN TO RECOGNIZE BANGLADESH, THERE NO RPT NO ASSURANCE RECOGNITION WILL LEAD AUTOMATICALLY TO REPATRIATION. THUS, IN THIS TROUBLING SITUATION, FAMILIES OF POWS SEEK ASSISTANCE OF US.

4. ACTING SECRETARY NOTED DEEP SYMPATHY OF USG AND AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE POWS AND THEIR FAMILIES. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT WE ASSIGN CONTINUED IMPORTANCE TO THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECEMBER 1971 SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. MOREOVER, WE REMAIN PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO THE PROBLEMS OF POWS AND THE NEED FOR RESPECT FOR THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS. CONTINUING, HE SAID THAT IT REMAINS OUR FERVENT HOPE THAT THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED CAN MOVE WITH DESPATCH TO RESOLVE THIS AND ALL OTHER OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT. HE ADDED THAT POWS ARE NOT RPT NOT ONLY PERSONS DENIED RETURN TO THEIR HOMES AND NOTED THAT BENGALIEES MUST ALSO BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO DEPART PAKISTAN.

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5. IF APPROACHED BY PRESS WE PLAN USE SAME GENERAL

LANGUAGE AS ACTING SECRETARY, ALTHOUGH WITHOUT
ATTRIBUTION. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971201
Subject: CALL BY WIVES OF POWS
TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN, PK
To: DACCA
ISLAMABAD
KARACHI
LAHORE
LONDON
NEW DELHI
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